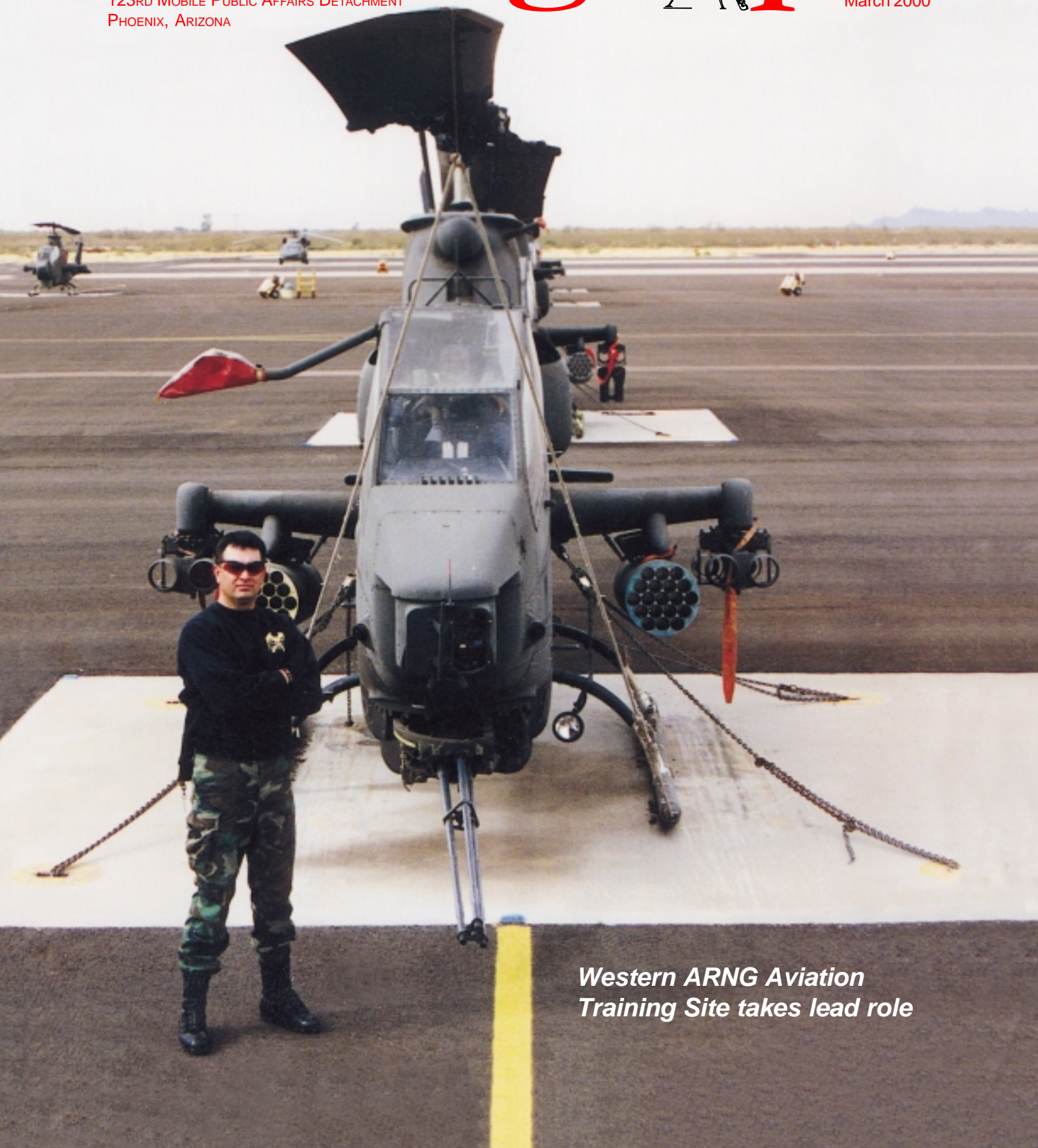


# Heliograph

123RD MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

March 2000



*Western ARNG Aviation  
Training Site takes lead role*

# From the desk of the Chief of Staff



**COL. BRUCE BODIN**

The primary goal of the Arizona Army National Guard is mission accomplishment, that is, to provide trained and ready units to fight and win the nation's wars and to support our state and community in emergency situations. All of us play an important part in the attainment of this goal.

Since my appointment as the Chief of Staff in November 1999, I have visited all of our armories and activities statewide. I have met most of our full-time workforce, and I will tell you that I am encouraged by the professionalism and dedication to mission accomplishment that our "full-timers" display as they go about making the Arizona Army

Guard run.

Training readiness is obviously a key part of total unit readiness. Soldiers are telling us through the soldier surveys that they are not being afforded the opportunity to train in their duty military occupational specialty. Who is responsible for individual training? NCO's. Who insures that NCO's are provided the time, opportunity and resources to conduct individual training? Company Commanders. It is important to unit readiness that soldiers train in their DMOS for two reasons: first, that we meet soldiers' expectations so they stay in the Guard; and second, that well trained individuals form the basis for collective training at unit level.

Let's empower our NCO's to do what they are good at doing!

Personnel readiness is one of the areas that requires the greatest attention in our Arizona Army Guard. Strength maintenance means keeping the good soldiers, especially first termers, and recruiting new soldiers to fill units to 100%. Soldiers stay in a unit because of good leadership. Good leadership equates to NCO's who care about their soldiers and who get the mission accomplished through tough, realistic training. Soldiers want to be part of a good unit that has pride and tradition. Let's give that to them.

In spite of budget reductions and

equipment shortages, we maintain a high logistical readiness in the Arizona Army Guard. In the next few months, we expect a number of the logistical problems of the units to be resolved.

Mission accomplishment is what we are all about. Our purpose is to get all of the elements of training, personnel and logistics readiness in balance so that we can become number one on the National Guard Bureau's readiness list. Together we can make this happen so we can grow and become the Arizona Na-

tional Guard of tomorrow

**HELIOGRAPH**

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*Frontcover photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel. Staff Sgt. Richard Barreda explains the Cobra AH-1 to visitors to the WAATS.*

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## *What can Guard members do to help meet the Recruiting and Retention goals of the Arizona Army National Guard?*

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Germano  
Detachment 4

Hometown: Scottsdale

"For the Senior NCOs and officers, I am a firm believer in our old advertisement 'Do what it takes to keep'em coming back for more.' If we provide serious realistic training and we have the dollars and the soldiers to do it, we can have a lot more fun being in the Army."



Sgt. Candice L. Capps  
Detachment 4

Hometown: Tempe

"When I go on a recruiting event, I like to take along a member of the Guard who has just completed boot camp and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)-- someone who can relate better to the individuals we will be talking

to. Senior NCOs and officers need to make drill weekends productive by making sure that soldiers work in there individual career fields."

Staff Sgt. Robert Hageman  
Detachment 4

Hometown: Glendale

"The Guardsmen are our eyes and ears in the community. They talk to people in their everyday life. They let their friends know about their Guard experiences. How members can help us recruit new members is by having their friends contact their local area recruiter."



# *Change of Command ceremonies occur in Arizona*

During the last months of 1999 and in January 2000, units have participated in the Change of Command ceremonies where the unit flag, or better known as colors, is passed from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

Symbolizing the change of command responsibility, the ceremony is steeped in Army tradition. The colors are passed from the outgoing battalion guidon bearer to battalion command sergeant major to the outgoing commander who then passes the colors to the incoming commander who passes them to his command sergeant major.

On October 2, 1999, the 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery saw the passing of colors from Lt. Col. Donald L. Wodash to Lt. Col. Hugo Salazar.

On October 3, 1999, the 2nd Battalion, 180th Field Artillery saw the passing of colors from Lt. Col. Roger L. Soden to Lt. Col. James E. Grayson, Jr.

On January 9, Detachment 7, State Area Command (Medical) passed the colors from Col. Elizabeth A. Nelson to Lt. Col. Brian L. Cullen.



*Above: 1/180 FA. Photos by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquett.*

*Below and bottom: Det 7, STARC Photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel.*



*Left: 2/180 FA  
Photo by Staff  
Sgt. Ernest  
Paquett.*



# 852nd RAOC returns home to family

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Isreal*

Thirty-two members of the Arizona Army National Guard's Tucson-based 852nd Rear Area Operations Center returned to Phoenix and Tucson on January 31, after serving seven months in Macedonia. Twenty-four members of the unit arrived at Sky Harbor International Airport aboard Delta Airlines Flight #689. Eight members of the unit arrived at Tucson International Airport aboard American Airlines Flight #1805.

"I'm so proud of him," said Mrs. Laura Davis. "It is the longest we've ever been separated. I really think he did a great job over there. My family and the Family Support Group were a great help."

The 852nd RAOC was the first National Guard unit in the country to be mobilized in support of the mission in Kosovo.

The 852nd RAOC departed Arizona on June 25, 1999 and went to their mobilization station prior to being deployed to Macedonia on the 6th of July, as part of the ongoing NATO peace-keeping operation known as Operation Joint Guardian. Our soldiers deployed to the Balkan region toward the end of Operation Allied Force and later named Operation Joint Guardian. The 852nd RAOC was stationed in Macedonia.

While in Macedonia, the 852nd RAOC replaced members of the 1st Infantry Division. 852nd RAOC personnel acted as the command and control of the operation of Camp Able Sentry. Every soldier and piece of equipment bound for Kosovo and Macedonia was processed through Camp Able Sentry.

The President, pursuant to Title 10, USC Section 12304 Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up Authority, authorized the ordering to active duty of units of the Army National Guard.

Other units that have deployed in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in the Balkan region are the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 416th Air Traffic Squadron.



*Awaiting the returning members of the 852nd RAOC, family and friends thronged the waiting area at Sky Harbor International Airport on January 31.*



*Cpl. Ronald Davis greets his family and friends after returning from service in Macedonia at Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix, Ariz., on January 31.*

## **For the late night worker...**

New security measures (force protection/threat awareness) have caused a policy change concerning entry onto Papago Park Military Reservation. The gates are now closed and locked at 6:30pm. Anyone wanting access to either side of McDowell Road must sign in at the Guard Gate. The measures will ensure your safety while working at PPMR.

# Guardisman competes at Cowboy Mounted Shooters Competition

*By Staff Sgt. Marion Hammonds*

Whether it be the sound of artillery fire or the pop of black powder loads at the Arizona Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association competition, Sgt. 1st Class Dan L. O'Connor, Chemical NCO, 153rd Field Artillery Brigade, feels right at home. O'Connor competed at Bumble Bee Ranch, north of Phoenix, during the weekend of February 25-27.

"This weekend was not only for competition but it was our membership drive activity as well," said O'Connor.

The ACMSA is a chapter of the national organization, the Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association. Members compete in meets throughout the year, testing their ability to fire single action, period authentic, .45 caliber pistols while on horseback. O'Connor was one of the founding members of the Arizona chapter, and served as president in 1997-1998.

A member of the ACMSA for six years, O'Connor enjoys the outdoors and anything to do with horses.

"I made the saddles I have on my horses," states O'Connor. "Like everything else in this competition, authenticity is a must."

"We try to keep everything like it was in the 1860s to 1890s," said O'Connor. The saddles take time to complete which entails a great deal of study to ensure accuracy of detail.

From the military police to the artillery, O'Connor's 19 years as a Guardsman has provided him with many experiences, including a trip to Saudi Arabia and several duty positions. Currently the Readiness NCO at the 153rd FA, O'Connor enjoys working with his hands and applying the attention to detail required in both his job and hobbies.

Though there are only two guardsmen in the ACMSA, O'Connor hopes others will come out and experience the flavor and fellowship that



*Sgt. 1st Class Dan O'Connor rides and shoots at the Arizona Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association Competition held at Bumble Bee Ranch, north of Phoenix, February 25-27. Photo courtesy of the O'Connor family.*

comes with these competitions. O'Connor was joined by Sgt. 1st Class Karla Field, RPAS NCO, Headquarters State Area Command and Sgt. 1st Class Brad Morse, 1st Battalion, 180 Field Artillery Operations Sergeant.

# Creation of new unit means more jobs for soldiers

*By Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette and Sgt. Jeremy Gypton*

The 91st Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team was created on January 13, 2000. Available to assist city, county and state efforts, the 91st is comprised of specially trained and equipped Guardsmen who can be called upon at a moment's notice to handle chemical, biological and nuclear emergencies in Arizona.

"The unit consists of command, operations, logistics, personnel and communications cells, as well as medical and survey teams," said Lt. Col. Timothy Dorn, commander. "The unit will include both Army and Air Guard active duty reserve members."

With an authorized strength of 22, the unit is looking for qualified soldiers and airmen to fill the positions and begin training in such diverse areas as civilian disaster preparedness dynamics, liaison methods between the military and civilian agencies, and fire and law enforcement emergency response procedures.

If called into action, the soldiers and airmen of the 91st would serve as liaisons, connecting civilian agencies with military resources. During a chemical emergency, for example, Guard members would use special detection and analysis equipment to assess and resolve the situation.

The 91st is a subordinate unit of the Plans, Operations and Military Support Office.

The POMSO, commanded by Col. James Cobb, is responsible for coordinating all military support of civilian emergency efforts. Among the



POMSO's many responsibilities is the physical security of all Arizona Army National Guard installations and equipment. POMSO is also responsible for the 24-hour duty officer who alerts key personnel when emergencies occur.

Whatever the nature of the crisis, whether floods, wildland fires, chemical spills or other situations, the Arizona National Guard is equipped, trained and ready to lend needed assistance to our communities.

The unit was originally created as an M-day manned unit by Congressional mandate in

1997 in response to concerns that the United States was unprepared to deal with weapons of mass destruction that could be used on US soil. In January, the unit changed configuration and became a unit made up of full time personnel. The unit is expected to be fully manned by mid-July 2000 and fully operational by 2003.



*Unit members will spend several hours in the Level-A suits during training and during emergency events. Photos courtesy of the POMSO office.*

# WAATS training is job number 1

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel*

Located at the Silver Bell Heliport, Marana, Ariz., the Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site is about 30 miles northwest of Tucson and 86 miles south of Phoenix. The training site is co-located with the 1st Battalion, 285th Aviation, an Apache AH-64 unit. Other Arizona Army National Guard units at the site are the Company D, 245th Aviation Detachment 2 and the Army Aviation Support Facility #2.

“Soldiers at the WAATS do their mission everyday,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Kent Gabrielson. “They do not train for their mission; they perform it everyday.”

The peacetime mission of the WAATS is to conduct aviation training for attack and scout missions as approved by US Army Training Doctrine Command. The wartime mission is to augment the TRADOC aviation mission as an activity under the command and control of the US Army Aviation Center, Ft. Rucker, Ala.

WAATS is the premiere training site for attack and scout helicopter training for the Army National Guard. The training site serves active duty, National Guard, Reserve and foreign national personnel.

“It is nice that we make a positive impact not only in Arizona, but on a national level,” said Sgt. Jim Steele, prop and rotor shop.

Students utilize the AH1 flight weapons simulator and the AH64 combat mission simulator. To enhance skills, gunnery training is conducted at the Goldwater Gunnery Range utilizing the 2.5 million-acre joint-use range. Staging from Gila Bend Auxiliary Field, the armed

helicopters proceed to the east tactical target range to complete their gunnery missions.

The weather and flying conditions allow for 360 training days per year.

In 1992 WAATS began training enlisted soldiers. WAATS now conducts military occupational specialty (MOS) qualifications as well as the aviation portion of the basic and advanced NCO courses.

Faced with the depleting resources and an increased demand to do more with less, WAATS continues to search for innovative ideas on how to increase the skills of the warfighters of today and of the future. The warfighter—the aviator, mechanic, technical inspector and flight operation specialist—is *the* focus for WAATS. It is these skills they acquire at the WAATS that continue to meet and exceed the expectations of the students and commands.

*Bottom: Sgt. Rolando Adique, helicopter mechanic, works on a OH-58.*



*Bottom: Cobras AH-1 line the WAATS flightline.*





*Top: Staff Sgts. Robert Young and John Hendricks, aircraft mechanics, work on a UH-60A helicopter. Left: Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bauer and Sgt. Jim Steele, of the prop and rotor shop, discuss hands on training. Bottom right: Chief Warrent Officer Michael Hillwig demonstrates the Cobra AH-1 simulator to students.*



*Left: Students participate in the Aviation Mission Planning Systems Operator course, known as the AMPS classroom.*

# Papago Ecobuilding takes shape

By Spc. Brian Kelley

The Arizona Army National Guard began construction on a new type of building in November 1999. It is being built using the latest construction techniques that incorporate self-sustaining energy and pollution prevention principles.

That's right, no conventional electrical, water, or air conditioning systems are going to be installed.

Passive solar energy will be used to light and heat through the use of skylights and southern exposure to the sun. Solar panels located on top of the building capture energy and store it in batteries. Water will come straight from the sky to be stored in cisterns adjacent to the building. This will provide the water needed for daily tasks. Water that goes down the drain, or greywater, will be recycled through planters and gardens. Planters with bacteria eating microorganisms will break down or purify the water that comes from the use of a toilet, also known as blackwater. The exterior walls are made of tires compacted with earth which serve as insulation. Air



*Tires are stacked up and filled with dirt to provide a thermal barrier for the new Arizona Army National Guard ecobuilding. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette.*

is circulated through underground pipes where the ground is cooler and is brought back to the building keeping it cool.

The project is estimated to be completed later this year.

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## Easter: The Week That Changed The World

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tom Troxell, Command Chaplain

In the Christian tradition, the week between Palm Sunday (April 16) and Easter (April 23) is a time of high drama and intense emotion. The celebration of triumph on Palm Sunday turns to despair on Good Friday and returns to joy on Easter with the news of the resurrection.

It does not surprise us when we hear of parents who sacrifice for their children. Nor are we too surprised when we hear of someone rescuing a child caught in a burning home. Recently, in the Phoenix area, the attempt of bystanders to rescue a Department of Public Service police officer trapped in his burning car made headlines.

We would be surprised, however, to hear of someone risking their life to rescue a serial killer. Our response would likely be, "Let 'em die!" Even if we responded a bit more mildly, we would nevertheless think it unusual for a person to go out of their way to save a

scoundrel.

The Apostle Paul, writing in Romans 5:1-11, uses this kind of comparison to impress on us the marvel of God's love for us:

"For a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners (scoundrels), Christ died for us."

The Christian Gospel shows humankind as *powerless, ungodly* and most of all *sinners*. None of these descriptions are complimentary to humankind. The message of Easter is that for *scoundrels*, Christ died and was risen.

Are you ever amazed at God's love? Does it take your breath away? It should – unless, of course, you think you deserve to be loved the way he loves us.

Prayer: God, we often forget that Jesus dies for *scoundrels*. Help us to be surprised by joy when we consider what Christ has done for us. Amen.

# Region IX Chaplains' Conference held at US Marine base

*By Spc. William Young, HHB 1/180th FA*

On February 28, the 5th Army, Region IX Unit Ministry Team training school began at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif. The conference lasted until March 1st.

The majority of Chaplains and Assistants attending the conference were Army National Guard and Army Reserves. Others attending were from the Air Force Reserve and one active duty Chaplain from the U.S. Navy stationed at the Marine Corps Base.

Chaplain (MAJ) John Zinck, of the Veterans Administration hospital in Tucson, Ariz., covered concerns about hospitalization, sickness and death of veterans. Recently at the death of a Native American, the diversity of ceremonial preferences was underlined.

"It was a learning experience in cultural diversity," said Zinck.

New military regulations authorize the deceased to have two

military personnel present at the funeral. One from the service of the deceased; the other from any branch. The problem today is that the number of World War II veterans dying is increasing. This rate is currently 1,000 - 1,500 individuals per day and is projected to double in the next two years. This increases the work load on the local VA for funeral services.

One session was on burial eligibility for internment in a national cemetery. The amount of space in these cemeteries is decreasing while the number of burial requests is steadily increasing. Many of the existing cemeteries are closed while others are nearing closure. Many veterans are asking if Congress is authorizing money for the creation of new cemeteries. The answer is yes.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, has been authorized to look into constructing five new national cemeteries," said Rick Boyd, Deputy Director of Riverside National Cemetery.

Also covered in one session was the importance of the funeral service rendered to the fallen servicemember.

"What we are doing is honoring a fallen comrade," said Chaplain (COL) Robert Eldridge. "We do the work in the pulpit and at a funeral. This is some of the best work we do."

The ceremony provides closure in the case of a tragic situation. Services or a ceremony performed by the unit Chaplain are critical for the moral and spiritual well being of the troops during this critical time.



Spc. Timothy Day, 257th Engineer Detachment, reenlisted on March 4. Administering the Oath of Extension was Cpt. Glen Law and Sgt. 1st Class Perry Carson. Photo courtesy of the 257th.



GIL CORONADO, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

## Selective Service impacts youth

*Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel*

On January 17, National Director Gil Coronado visited government officials to spread the word about the Selective Service System.

"I am here to ensure that both parents and the young men of Arizona understand how the Military Selective Service Act impacts their lives," he said.

For most of us, we have come to know this program as 'registering for the draft.' Currently the draft program has not been enacted, but may be in case of a major war outbreak.

By not registering with the SSS, the young person can be denied federal and state scholarships, and state and federal job training program opportunities.

Just prior to a young man's 18th birthday, the SSS mails a reminder card. However, today's youth can now register on the Internet.

"Arizona experiences low compliance for this program due to having a significant drop out rate among male high school students," said Lt. Col. Janelle Weyn, commander of Detachment 5.

Ultimately, up until the age of 25, the law requires that all males need to be registered. For specific details and how to register please visit the SSS web site at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) or you can contact the SSS office at (602)267-2343.



LT. COL. JANELLE WEYN



# Navy Seabees aid Arizona National Guard

*Story and Photo by Spc. Brian Kelley*

At the Papago Park Military Reservation there is a presence that few soldiers are aware of as they go about their jobs. We sometimes don't take the time to look at the people around us who are doing the job of keeping our facilities maintained. If you look closely at these people, their uniforms don't quite look like the soldiers or airmen that frequent PPMR. Their hats have an odd jar shape to them. No, it's not the Marine Corps. It's the Navy Seabees.

A detachment of the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 17 has been doing construction and maintenance at PPMR since 1992. They have completed thousands of man hours of construction and maintenance projects. In the last 18 months, Detachment 0617 has completed over 1500 man hours on 73 projects.

Lt. j.g. Curtis Smith, detachment commander, works closely with National Guard Seabee liaison, Staff Sgt. Earl Dodge. Together, they keep our current facilities maintained and have begun construction on the National Guard's new ecobuilding, an environmentally friendly building that is totally self-sustained and uses pollution prevention building principles.

"The Seabees are a force multiplier," said Dodge, who also works full time for the post Facilities Management Office. "They do things Facilities just doesn't have the time or heavy equipment to do. They have heavy equipment operators, carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers and steel workers. There are more than 60 Seabees here on drill weekend."

The construction projects, combined with the training demands of keeping the Seabees combat

ready, present a constant challenge. The location at the PPMR provides the Seabees with what they need to accomplish their training.

The Seabees' mission is similar to the Army



*On January 8<sup>th</sup> Seabee SW3 Greg Harsha uses a MW-24C bucket loader and a dump truck to haul dirt to the new Ecobuilding at Papago Park Military Reservation. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette.*

Corps of Engineers. They serve as a tactical construction force to aid in combat operations. The Seabees also serve in a support role for the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Army, and the Reserves and National Guard.

"Working with the Army National Guard gives us a chance to coordinate with other branches of the military as we would do in wartime," said Builder Second Class Ken McGarity.

The Seabees were established during World War II in March 1942. During the war, they earned a reputation for their ability to build and to fight. The Seabees participated in every major amphibious assault in World War II.

The Seabees are a versatile group that can accomplish the wide variety of missions that are thrown their way wherever they may be.

## Notes from the past...

# Tuthill: Arizona's first Adjutant General

By Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Thomason

Lt. Gen. Alexander Mackenzie Tuthill served Arizona as a military leader, surgeon and statesman. He was the commanding general of the 45th Infantry Division and the Adjutant General of the state of Arizona.

General Tuthill was a member of the Arizona Constitutional Convention which convened to frame the basic law of the state of Arizona in 1910, two years prior to admission of Arizona as a state. For more than 54 years, he served as a physician and surgeon, retiring from active practice in 1952. He died on May 28, 1958.

General Tuthill assumed leadership in the National Guard of Arizona at a most critical time, in 1903, soon after the Spanish-American War, and rose from the outstanding captaincy of a cavalry troop at Morenci to the rank of Lieutenant General, National guard of Arizona, retired. With decisive leadership and high military standards he laid the foundation for the policies under which the troops of the National Guard of Arizona trained in peacetime and rendered distinguished service in World War I, World II and the Korean War.

Considered the *Father of the Arizona National Guard*, General Tuthill was born at South Lebanon, New York, Sept. 22, 1871. He graduated from the Medical College of the University of Southern California, with a degree of MD in 1895.

His military career began as a Private, Troop D, California National Guard from Nov. 2, 1897 to Sept. 30, 1898.

He served as Captain, 2nd Troop of Cavalry, National Guard of Arizona, Morenci, Ariz., July 16, 1903 to Aug. 4, 1910.

He was Colonel, Infantry, Commanding Officer, 1st Arizona Infantry, Aug. 5, 1910 to Aug. 4, 1917. He entered Active Federal Service, Mexican Border Service, on May 9, 1916. (The 1st Arizona Infantry was redesignated as the 158th Infantry on Aug. 3, 1917.)

He became Brigadier General in 1928 and Major General of the Line, Commanding General, 45th Infantry (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma) Sept.



LT. GEN. ALEXANDER TUTHILL

15, 1933 to Sept. 22, 1935. The Federal Recognition was terminated because he reached the age of 64.

General Tuthill was appointed Major General of the Line, National Guard of Arizona, for life, on Sept. 22, 1935, and became The Adjutant General of Arizona on Feb. 4, 1936, serving until June 25, 1952.

He was appointed Lieutenant General on Aug. 16, 1952 (Retired List).

General Tuthill served as the Arizona State Director of Selective Service from Oct. 18, 1940 to Aug. 15, 1952.

General Tuthill received many distinguished awards throughout his long career. He was awarded Arizona's only existing Medal of Honor in 1935; the Medal for Merit by the state of Colorado in 1935; the Medal for Merit by the President of the United States in 1947; and the Medal for Merit by the state of California in 1950.

Fort Tuthill, near Flagstaff, Ariz., was named in his honor. The fort served as a major National Guard training site until the Guard's lease was transferred in 1955 to Coconino County. The 8,000 square mile facility is used today as a recreational area for military personnel, their families and civilians.

## Papago Trackers donate history records to State Archives

By Dale Steele, Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records

Hundreds of records, photographs and artifacts documenting the military's use of the Papago Park Military Reservation are now in the Arizona State Archives.

At a reception March 1, Papago Trackers President Don Prior transferred six boxes of the organization's files to the Arizona History and Archives Division, Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records.

The collection includes personnel records of both civilian and military staff who worked at the prisoner-of-war camp there during World War II. It also has records of the Germans who were imprisoned there, and extensive correspondence with Jurgen Wattenberg, the U-boat commander who led the famous tunnel escape from the camp in December 1944.

Material of the U.S. Army's 364th Infantry Regiment at the outbreak of WWII and the first Phoenix area Veteran's Administration Hospital, which was established there after the war, are also in the collection.

Papago Trackers was founded in 1985 to gather information about the base and its history. It has hosted visits by former POWs who were interned there. The collection donated to the State Archives represents more than 15,000 person-hours spent by the Trackers gathering, classifying and organizing the material.

"This is an exceptionally unique collection of material," said Deputy State Archivist Melanie Sturgeon. "We are grateful to the Trackers for their generosity. We invite people to monitor our web page [www.dlapr.lib.az.us/archives](http://www.dlapr.lib.az.us/archives) to see when the material will be ready for public use."

# Mentors aid Project ChalleNGe graduates

*By Staff Sgt. Marion Hammonds*

In 1993, Arizona was named by the National Guard Bureau to operate one of ten Project ChalleNGe youth programs that assist young people in learning the skills needed to survive in society. The program provides mentors for the students that involve a 14-month one-on-one training period: two months residential and one year post-residential phase.

"The attention a mentor provides is invaluable to the student," says Yolanda Martinez, Mentor Coordinator.

The quiet side of the program, the mentor phase is one of the

most crucial for students. Once graduated from the program, many young people find themselves on their own with no one to turn to when difficult decisions or situations arise. Mentors help guide these students through rough times as well as provide a sounding board when the difficulties of life seem to bear down.

"A mentor can provide the nurturing, supportive adult relationship absent in the lives of many of our young people," said Martinez.

Martinez states the need for mentors is a never-ending reality. Though Project ChalleNGe teaches necessary life-coping

skills, students still need direction in some situations because they lack the necessary experience to deal with all situations.

Mentors are required to pass a background and reference check in addition to attending a *Mentor Day* which lasts about six hours. Once these requirements are met, mentors are matched with a Project ChalleNGe student. Prior to graduation, a *Mentor Dining Out* is held to honor mentors, and provide a social setting for both mentors and students to converse and share experiences.

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## State champions prepare for National Matches



*During the State Machinegun and Sniper Championship Match held on January 29 and 30 at the Florence Military Reservation rifle range, Sgt John Salazar (A-gunner) and Spc. Randy Leyba (B-gunner), both of the 1404<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, won the M-60 machinegun portion of the match. They will be representing Arizona at the National Championship at the Winston P. Wilson matches in Little Rock, Ark., this coming October. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ernest Paquette.*

# From the desk of the Assistant Adjutant General-Army

By Col. Richard Maxon

I have received the results of the recent soldier's survey and the news is encouraging. I thank each of you who participated for taking the time to provide us with your opinions. You are telling us a lot of things about our organization and I want you all to understand *we are listening*.

Some of the items that caught my attention when I reviewed the results are:

◆ Pride in our organization and military service is quite high. Soldiers generally want us to do more to "showcase" our soldiers and units. To address this issue we are doing several things. First, we are implementing a *Hometown News Release* program. As our soldiers achieve milestones in their career, such as the completion of schools or promotions, a news release will be sent to their hometown newspaper. Naturally, it will be up to the paper to decide whether to use the item. Our thinking is they can't print what they don't know about so we will tell them about it. Next, we are going to revamp the *Heliograph* to make it more like our hometown newspaper. It will be one of our main ways to communicate with our soldiers and their families.

◆ Soldiers have indicated to us that recognition for a job well done is very important to them. I have asked the staff to look at ways to reinvigorate our awards program. We are identifying ways to provide quick recognition for soldiers who perform in an exemplary manner. The *Heliograph* is an excellent way to recognize soldiers and I have asked that particular attention be given to soldier recognition in this forum.

◆ Significant comments were given to us concerning the promotion system. In general soldiers were satisfied with the system but they indi-



COL. RICHARD MAXON

cated there was need for improvement. To address some of the concerns, the balance of points between administrative and leadership/performance has been adjusted. The old system had 75% administrative and 25% leadership. The current system is more evenly balanced with 60% of the points administrative and 40% leadership. Additionally, we are holding this year's E-5 promotion board at the battalion level to see how this works out. Other modifications are being considered and will be announced when approved.

◆ Training was identified as the most significant factor in determining a soldier's satisfaction with the National Guard. Those units having aggressive, demanding training schedules tended to have the highest soldier satisfaction rating. Those units experiencing low satisfaction ratings tended to have written comments that complained of wasted time and poorly planned training. I have challenged our commanders to plan training that is action oriented, MOS related, well organized and FUN. Being in the National Guard is serious business but

it must also be interesting to our soldiers. We are committed to making that happen.

◆ We have completely revamped the way bonuses are being paid. The Inspector General tells me that bonus related complaints have dropped off substantially and are now rare. This indicates to me that we have made a great deal of progress in an area that the last year's survey identified as being a problem. We aren't perfect yet but we are moving in that direction.

◆ To provide each soldier with information regarding a variety of topics concerning their membership in the Arizona Army National Guard we are publishing an information booklet. Topics covered will include: Education Benefits, Enlisted Promotion System, Morale Recreation and Welfare, Sexual Harassment Policy, Military Pay and Uniform issue problems.

These are just some of the things we are doing to address issues brought to light in the soldier's survey. As I said earlier, the trends are all positive but we still have a lot of work to do. It is my philosophy that our most important resource is our soldiers. We must continue to improve our organization to treat our soldiers and their families with the respect they deserve. Being a soldier and serving our state and nation is a privilege. It should not be a burden and we are working hard to bolster that pride you already have for our organization.

Your unit commander will be speaking to you about the results of the survey. Please listen with an open mind. Offer your opinions. I promise we will listen.

*Backcover photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel. Staff Sgt. Vern West, 108th Army Band, plays the French horn at an award ceremony for the 852nd RAOC on Mar. 4.*



*The Heliograph*

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